

## **Service Decision May 12, 2009**

The Service has determined that the following action will be protective of delta smelt.

Since the VAMP export curtailments will end on May 18, starting the week of May 18th, the 14-day average OMR shall be maintained at no more negative than -2500 cfs, unless the following occurs between now and May 18:

- A. delta smelt are detected at the export facilities on two consecutive days. This includes any combination of (1) detection in either salvage or larva sampling, and (2) detection at either facility.

AND

The three day average combined expanded salvage is above 8.

OR

- B. Combined expanded salvage on any given day is above 16.

If either of the above conditions are met, the exports will be constrained to the current 1:1 Vernalis flows.

These flows are needed to protect delta smelt for the following reasons:

1) Delta water temperatures are currently at 18.8 degrees C (three station average of Mossdale, Rio Vista and Antioch) which is close to the range of delta smelt spawning, which is 12-18 degrees C. Spawning may still be occurring in parts of the Delta and larval delta smelt have now been caught throughout the system, including at the export facilities. As these fish get larger, sampling efforts will become more effective at sampling juvenile delta smelt and will help give a more detailed picture of the current delta smelt distribution in the Delta.

2) The goal remains to prevent delta smelt from becoming entrained into the South Delta where they can become entrained at the facilities or succumb to high water temperatures later in the season. Even though large numbers of delta smelt were not sampled in the South Delta in the most recent 20-mm survey (Survey 5), the salvage of delta smelt at stations 901 and 815 and at the export facilities over the past week shows that there are delta smelt in the South Delta. These fish were entrained at the facilities even though OMR flows have been around -1000 cfs on a 14-day average. The Service is concerned with entrainment of these delta smelt in the South and Central Delta which could become entrained in future weeks if actions to minimize OMR flows are not taken.